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Strengthening International Friendship

OUT OF IT ALL will come a great revival of good feeling and good fellowship. Prevailing sentiment in El Paso and Juarez today, among all classes of both nationalities, is like that of two sworn friends who have got into a tight place together, have faced dire peril together, have stuck together in the face of imminent and common danger, and have come safely out into the sunshine. Such experiences weld friendships, sharpen the sympathies, promote better understanding.

Self control was the most potent element in averting a more serious crisis. Next to that, was the knowledge possessed equally by all concerned, that this time the army of the United States was under orders to protect life and property from wanton or careless aggression, and that the army meant business in case circumstances should require quick, positive, and determined action. It all went to promote, and to conserve, that mutual respect which is the first and most important element in true friendship, the essential basis of genuine regard, one for another.

Today we are better friends than ever, because we know each other better and respect each other more.

It was a severe test of moral force and good faith, and the twin cities have passed through the trial with honor; the result makes for permanent peace and tranquility.

All praise is due, and is most cheerfully accorded, to the invaders for the fine discipline and complete restraint they exercised. Not one single case of lawlessness, of looting or aggression, of violation of personal or property rights of foreigners or noncombatants, was reported, to mar the admirable record of good order.

The episode must have impressed upon our Mexican neighbors most deeply the great fact that the United States has not the slightest desire in the world to interfere with Mexico's domestic affairs or take any part whatever in her political quarrels. El Paso's desire, and the duty and intention of the United States government, were and are limited to one thing only: the protection of life and property of foreigners. This being safeguarded by the Mexicans themselves through the intelligence and self-restraint of both parties to Mexico's lamentable domestic dispute, the interest of Americans in the outcome of the affair was that of friendly spectators only, and so far as Americans were concerned, the international boundary was respected as sacredly and as completely as if the two countries had been separated by an ocean 3000 miles wide.

The demonstration was most valuable as proving the absolute good faith of the declarations of the United States regarding neutrality.

If other bands of rebels and revolutionists in Mexico shall follow the precedent set by Gen. Salazar's men, and as scrupulously respect the rights of foreigners as did he and the men under his command, there will never be any occasion for the mediation of the United States or any other power, and Mexico will be left absolutely free to work out her own destiny.

Enforcing the "Neutral Strip"

EVENTS of the last few days have completely and emphatically vindicated the El Paso Herald's interpretation of the obligations of neutrality, and The Herald's proposal last year (three weeks before the attack on Juarez by the Maderistas) that a "neutral strip" be proclaimed and enforced for the protection of El Pasoans. A determined policy controlled the action of the Washington government this time; had the same determined policy been enforced last May, not only would the outrageous bombardment of El Paso (causing the loss of five lives and the wounding of 18 Americans in El Paso) have been avoided, but Mexico also might have spared much sacrifice of life.

On April 15 last year, three weeks before the battle of Juarez, The Herald printed an editorial entitled "A Five-Mile Neutral Strip." Discussing the episode at Douglas, Ariz., The Herald said in part:

"This illustrates the danger confronting the American border cities, and emphasizes the duty of the United States to take some action to protect the lives of its citizens engaged in peaceful pursuits on their own premises. There is something wrong when Americans under their own roofs must be subjected to the deadly rain of bullets from a foreign country with never a hand of government raised to protect them. To confess failure to protect American citizens in their homes and places of business half a mile or more from the border is hardly creditable to the government at Washington.

"A respect for neutrality that tolerates the killing and wounding of peaceable Americans women and children, on the American side of the boundary, is coming dangerously near being ridiculous and contemptible. What has become of neutrality on the south side of the line? Is no respect for American territory and American citizens in the hands of the United States government? What are Americans in Texas and Arizona to do? Move! Abandon their homes and business."

"It is high time the Washington government were serving notice to both sides in this little conflict to do their fighting work of a five-mile neutral strip or take the consequences of American policing. Bullets respect distance, but no other guaranty of neutrality, and the ordinary channels of diplomatic intercourse are the American national administration with reference to a guaranty—not of days and weeks. To hesitate is not to show friendliness, but ignorance and indecision. A friendly government cannot take offense at a reasonable demand for such action as here proposed. Neglect it, and much more serious consequences may ensue."

That was written three weeks before the battle of Juarez. The American government waited a year, and then adopted exactly the policy outlined by the El Paso Herald on April 15, 1911.

It happened that on the very same day that the El Paso Herald published its editorial advocating the enforcing of a "neutral strip" (April 15, 1911) president Taft was telegraphing to governor Sloan of Arizona as follows:

"I cannot order the troops to cross the border, but I must ask you to direct the people of Douglas to place themselves where bullets cannot reach them, and thus avoid casualty. Injury to Americans on our side of the border can be avoided by a temporary inconvenience."

Commenting after the battle of Juarez on this extraordinary and indefensible policy, the El Paso Herald said editorially, in part:

"Outrages as against citizens of our country, placing Americans in Mexico in danger of wanton insult, personal injury, or death, their property in danger of destruction; bringing humiliation to loyal citizens on this side of the line; the attitude of the American national administration with reference to the protection of American rights in Mexico and along the border is shameful, disgraceful to the last degree, and deserving of open and unreserved censure."

"If the United States government is to be taken seriously, it must, as it has, as they should have been, deal with this question of vital and immediate importance to American life and American rights, when it arose, without foolish and disastrous interference from the Washington government, there would have been no intervention and no need for it, there would have been no violation of the neutrality laws, there would have been no interference with the rights of the Mexicans to kill each other, but neither would there have been this fearful toll of dead and wounded, this terrible loss of our national prestige in Mexico, all due to the mistaken policy of the Washington government, its flabbiness when the situation demanded the maximum firmness."

"In this discussion on our part, there is not one thought of antagonism directed against Mexico or the Mexicans. The people of El Paso and the people of Juarez will forever keep the peace. But this mistaken policy at Washington gives the lower classes in Mexico an excuse for the murder of Americans, destruction of American property, and violation of Americans' rights in the republic. Intelligent men in Mexico do not misconstrue American blunders or seek to take advantage of them. But it is a grossly mistaken idea that the United States can gain friendship in Mexico or in any other country, especially in any Latin-American country, by practicing a weak, flabby, inconclusive, and vacillating policy."

"Firmness in the right is the part of wisdom always. It is the part of peace and friendship that is unassailable. First, be right—then, be firm. It is a principle that is unassailable. In its relations of late years with Mexico, the United States has not always been right; but it has never been firm. As a result, American diplomacy is the sport of Mexican capriciousness; American protestations of friendship, though really sincere, are treated with contemptuous cynicism; Americans are placed on the defensive, and forced to play the role of chronic lack of worth while—the kind that is based on mutual respect."

"The people of the loyal border cities, who obey the law, keep the peace, and live on terms of genuine friendship with their neighbors across the line, are not the least disposed to conceal their disapproval of a course that is impossible to justify and that is sure to bring evil in its train."

But—following the vigorous protests of the El Paso Herald, which were getting fully and with approval in congressman W. R. Smith's powerful and result-getting speech on Mexican border claims in the house of representatives, and which were distributed throughout Washington and over the country, among members of the cabinet, senators, congressmen, newspapers, the governor of Texas and other state officials and public men where the information would do the most good—there came a change over the spirit of the Washington government. The mistaken and dangerous policy of the president and the state department was completely

and diametrically reversed. The result of the change we have just seen for ourselves.

All the dispatches from Washington during the past week or ten days have brought out the exact nature of the policy adopted to guide the government through this great crisis which has just been successfully passed; the dispatches, quoting war department and cabinet officials, repeatedly used the term "neutral strip," and the Washington officials were careful to explain exactly the basis of this decision and to justify their determination to enforce a "neutral strip" between El Paso and Juarez for the protection of American lives and property on this side—exactly as outlined by the El Paso Herald a year ago.

In spite of all denials and statements to the contrary, the El Paso Herald has positive and personal knowledge of the fact that the United States forces on this border had orders, first, to give warning, but then, in case it was disregarded, to cross the river, enter Juarez, and take possession for the purpose of temporarily policing, and of protecting the lives of El Pasoans who might be placed under fire should a conflict of arms in Juarez result in shooting toward the American side. The Herald knows this is true, and vouches for the accuracy of the statement. The American forces were thus, in effect, ordered to enforce a "neutral strip," and the fact that they were not called upon to step one inch over the boundary line was due solely to the fact that there was no fighting in Juarez, and that, as both sides to Mexico's domestic conflict knew positively the nature of the orders under which the American forces were acting, neither party cared to assume the responsibility of any act which would bring about the armed mediation, for police purposes, of the United States.

The reasonable policy first outlined by the El Paso Herald a year ago, three weeks before the great battle of Juarez, and now on this occasion (a year later) embraced and successfully enforced by the United States government, has thus been fully vindicated, to the great gain, security, and welfare of all parties concerned on both sides of the international boundary.

Let us hope that this will constitute a permanent and accepted precedent for all time to come; let us hope that the occasion will never arise for its enforcement again; but let us hope that if such occasion should arise, the Washington government will be as wise and as forceful next time as it was this week when the peace of two cities, and perhaps of two republics, was placed in jeopardy by the imminence of battle close to the boundary line.

UNCLE WALTS' Denatured Poem

I HEAR the down-and-outers' symphony, a weird and sad refrain; they come to me to pull my limb, and do not come in vain. Some come with large hang-over jags and eyes that show despair; and while I'm ruminating in my rage, the "outs" will have a share. I do not care what use they make of kopecks I dispense; let them go in for pie or cake or jugs of old bone fense, I hate the man who cannot give unless he jaws a dog, instructing "outs" how to live the life that's grand and true. The down-and-outers through the ways, and yearn for half a bone, and some have struck on evil days through no fault of their own; and some who plod the weary track were born and reared in sin; and some are there because they lack the things that make men win. And while the worlds through space career, through all the coming years, the down-and-outers will be seen in this old vale of tears; they are a part of the parade, they figure in the game; so give the down-and-outers aid, and then forget the same.

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THE END OF DANCING The Herald's Daily Short Story

By Marcel Prevost.

THE old dancing master shook his head.

"Of course, of course," he said, "they will always want arms and legs to move rhythmically before the audience, and composers will continue writing music for these movements. But you know what the matter is. The ballerina and the ballet do not hold the position they did in former times. In those days the advent of a famous ballerina to a city like Paris was an event at least as important as a visit of a foreign sovereign. The ballerina was the supreme incarnation of grace and beauty. The dance in Paris was an event and initiated by the lips and eyes of thousands of other women. Her body showed the perfection of form and grace. She was the embodiment of the most marvelous of all arts, the plastic art par excellence, an art worthy of Prometheus himself."

"An speaking seriously, sir. There is no nobler art than the dance, because its material is the beauty of women. There is no more stirring of touching art. The ballerina, according to my idea, has something of the priestess about her. This is no paradox, because all religions have their sacred dances. The ballerina showed the audience the example and the law of a rational cult of feminine beauty. She was only right that she should rank above the actors or the singer."

"She meant more. Her presence intoxicated the audience. All eyes longed to see her, all hearts beat for her only. The young student wrote his first love poems to her. The old diplomat employed more skill to conquer her than he would use to disarm the milksop. Financiers became famous if the ballerina favored them. And remember, sir, that most of these charming girls were chaste. They were not the kind of life of some important or famous personage, but without sacrificing any of her charms which were necessary for her art. For this art is the most exalting of all, and the daily practice of the pianist is a mere pleasure compared to the long hours of tireless symmetrical exercises which a ballerina must go through every day in order to keep her body supple."

"An exceptional, most divine, and always adorable, being. Her name was often an Italian one, though sometimes French. But German, too, was used for the most exquisite delight of the eyes, the homage of the crowd and the princes alike to womanly grace and beauty."

"This is what dance was in the past. Today—alas, today even the most determined optimist will understand why he cannot help feeling anxious and discouraged."

"I do not say anything to detract from the merits of our present ballerinas. If they are as good as those of the past, the case is even more serious, for there is no doubt that nobody cares much for them. The end of the art of dancing itself has come."

Thus spoke sadly the old dancing master.

One-Sentence Philosophy

QUAKER MEDITATIONS.

(Philadelphia Record.)

The rounder doesn't always move in the best circles.

Experience either calls a man down or shows him up.

It doesn't take a high flyer to build castles in the air.

It is quite possible to crack a joke without damaging it.

It isn't always the forward child that comes out ahead.

An excuse is merely something you can't think of when you want it.

Willie—Mamma, may I have a piece of candy? Willie's Mamma—But I just gave you a piece. Willie—Well, I know, but that one slipped down while when I wasn't looking.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

"What makes you think the baby is going to be a great politician?" asked the young mother, anxiously. "I tell you," answered the young father, confidently; "he can say more things that sound well and mean nothing at all than any kid I ever saw."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Did that aviator friend of yours have a successful season?" "Very. He more than made enough to pay all his hospital expenses."—Detroit Free Press.

Not up to date—The schoolmaster: Now how was it that this great discovery made by Columbus was not fully appreciated until many years after his death? The up to date scholar: Because he didn't advertise, sir.—The Sketch.

THIRTEEN MONTHS OF FOUR WEEKS EACH MAY BE ADOPTED AS THE NEW CALENDAR

Calendar Revision Congress in Geneva Will Try to Make a New and Better Time System.

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 18.—

The prospective calendar revision of the civilized nations to be held at Geneva, Switzerland, next summer, coupled with the fact that this year will come on next Thursday, makes the movement for the revision of the calendar of unusual interest at this time. It is generally agreed by thinking men on all nationalities that there is much room for improvement in our system of reckoning time. While the calendar reform of Julius Caesar and Pope Gregory have served their times well, it is believed in scientific circles that there is no longer an excuse for the continuation of the calendar as it exists today.

The one principal difficulty that has been encountered throughout the centuries since Julius Caesar lent the force of Rome to a revision of the system of time reckoning, has been the fact that the globe of our earth refuses to make its journey around the sun in an even number of days. If it could, it would be a simple matter to calculate the length of its journey in exactly 364 days, the calendar makers would have no problem at all, and the calendar would be exactly the same under those circumstances any given date in the year would always fall on the same day of the week. This would leave no occasion for adjustment through the addition of leap years. Again, if it could be made to revolve around the sun five hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds sooner than it now does, the calendar problem of the year would be eliminated.

Seeking a Substitute. Many methods of reckoning time have been proposed as a substitute for the present system. Of course without exception they recognize the length of the year as the basic principle. Some of them would record Christmas day and February 29 as "no day" or "leap day" in the calendar. These days would not stand as days of the week at all. This would in no way interfere with the Gregorian system of calculating time. It would simply permit all days in the year to fall on the same day of the week. Others go a little farther into the future. Since it is found that under our present system the four quarters of the year are not of equal length, it is proposed that the length of the months shall be somewhat changed. At present the first quarter consists of 31 days, the second quarter of 28 days, the third and fourth quarters of 32 days each. It is proposed to revamp the calendar in such a manner that they shall each have 30 days, except March, June, September and December. In this proposition for revising the calendar, New Year's day as at present, and "Leap day" between the end of June and the beginning of July. This proposition for the simplification of the calendar was made in 1907, by Alexander W. H. Smith.

Would Make Year 13 Months. Still others would go farther than this. They would divide the year into 13 months each month consisting of exactly four weeks. They would place the new month in midsummer and call it "Leap day" or some similar term. This proposition has been championed by Alexander W. H. Smith, of New York, England. Mr. Smith has proposed that the new calendar shall go into effect on January 1, 1913. In 1913, the year will fall on a Monday. He suggests that this would always permit Christmas eve to fall on Sunday and that the day after, January 1, would be the world's universal peace day. He feels that no other year could be more fittingly set aside, since 1913 is the centennial of the birth of a number of events of great historical interest. He points out that in 1813 Napoleon crossed the Alps, which settled the political affairs of Europe and so prepared the way for international friendship and intercourse was held. During that year, George Stephenson was laying the foundations for his construction of the railway locomotive. In 1813, the first steamship was built and the first savings banks in England and America were established. He suggests that the year 1913 should be the year of the world's universal peace day. He feels that no other year could be more fittingly set aside, since 1913 is the centennial of the birth of a number of events of great historical interest. He points out that in 1813 Napoleon crossed the Alps, which settled the political affairs of Europe and so prepared the way for international friendship and intercourse was held. During that year, George Stephenson was laying the foundations for his construction of the railway locomotive. In 1813, the first steamship was built and the first savings banks in England and America were established. He suggests that the year 1913 should be the year of the world's universal peace day. 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